

# DATA SHEET

PH0085081

Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>ALABAMA</b>	
COUNTY: <b>TUSCALOOSA</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	<b>FEB 24 1975</b>

<b>1. NAME</b>	
COMMON: <b>Druid City Historic District</b>	
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

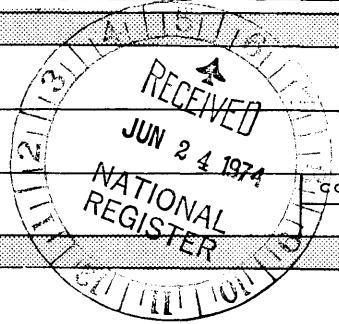
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: <i>roughly bounded by 16th ave, 21st ave, ...</i>			
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Tuscaloosa</b> <i>Deering St.</i>			
STATE <b>Alabama</b>	CODE <b>01</b>	COUNTY: <b>Tuscaloosa</b>	CODE <b>125</b>

<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

<b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>	
OWNER'S NAME: <b>Multiple Public &amp; Private</b>	
STREET AND NUMBER:	
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:

<b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>	
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: <b>Tuscaloosa County Courthouse</b>	
STREET AND NUMBER: <b>714 Greensboro Avenue</b>	
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Tuscaloosa</b>	STATE: <b>Alabama</b>
	CODE <b>01</b>

<b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b>	
TITLE OF SURVEY: <b>Historic American Buildings Survey</b>	
DATE OF SURVEY: <b>1935</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: <b>Library of Congress</b>	
STREET AND NUMBER:	
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Washington</b>	STATE: <b>D. C.</b>
	CODE <b>08</b>



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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FOR NPS USE ONLY

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

☐ Excellent☒ Good☐ Fair☐ Deteriorated☐ Ruins☐ Unexposed

(Check One)

☒ Altered☐ Unaltered

(Check One)

☐ Moved☒ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Druid City Historic District is located near the center of Tuscaloosa, and encompasses approximately 90 acres which contain 47 structures and one monument.

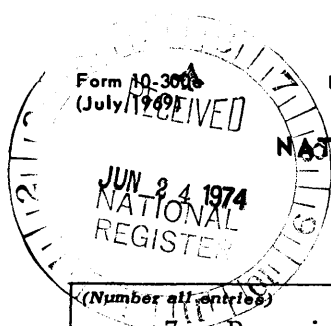
The district is centered around 18th Avenue which for many years formed the east margin of Tuscaloosa. East of this Avenue, the streets were laid out north to south and east to west, whereas the streets in the original survey to the west ran parallel and perpendicular to the Black Warrior River. This shift results in several triangular plots of land at the point where the two areas meet.

The important structures in the district date from approximately 1820 to 1920 and vary in size from small carriage houses to large homes of the mansion type. For the most part these structures were executed in wood, only five are brick. Styles represented include Greek Revival, late Georgian-Federal, Gothic Revival, Queen Anne and Neo-Classical Revival. Several of these structures are recognized as outstanding examples of their respective styles.

The area, while primarily residential, blends nicely with commercial activity and is unified by numerous large oaks from which the city takes its nickname "The Druid City".



SEE INSTRUCTIONS



Form 10-300a  
(July 1969)

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7. Description

DEARING-SWAIM HOUSE - 2111 14th Street; 1835; Greek Revival; two story masonry. HABS

FOSTER-SHIRLEY-CUMMINGS HOUSE - 1600 Dearing Place; 1827; Greek Revival 2½ story frame. HABS

FALQOUT HOUSE - 1305 Queen City Avenue; 1857; Greek Revival; 1 story frame

HARING HOUSE - 1303 Queen City Avenue; c. 1910; late Victorian; one story frame.

HARRISON-STABLER-CRUMP HOUSE - 1220 Queen City Avenue; 1915; "Queen Anne"; 2½ story frame.

MONNISH-NICOL HOUSE - 14 Monnish Place; 1906; Neo-Classical Revival; 2 story frame.

HARRISON-LASETER HOUSE - 1601 Alaca Place; 1856; Italianate; two story frame.

GLASCOCK-FOSTER HOUSE - 1109 21st Avenue; 1844; French Gothic; one story frame.

JACKSON HOUSE - 1021 Queen City Avenue; 1860's; two story frame .

PRINCE-KILGORE HOUSE - 2006 11th Street; 1910; Neo-Classical Revival; one story frame.

BANK HOUSE - 2008 11th Street; c. 1915; one story frame.

ASHCRAFT HOUSE - 2010 11th Street; c. 1915; one story frame.

GEIST HOUSE - 1019 21st Avenue; c. 1850's; Greek Revival; 1½ story frame.

KYLE HOUSE (STILLMAN COLLEGE) - 1008 21st Avenue; c. 1870's; Victorian Gothic; 1 story frame.

SNOW HOUSE - 1001 21st Avenue; 1905; 1½ story frame.

INGE-ALSTON HOUSE - 1013 Queen City Avenue; 1907; "Queen Anne"; 1½ story frame.

CUNNINGHAM HOUSE - 1003 Queen City Avenue; 1906; 2 story frame.

WAUGH HOUSE - 1005 17th Avenue; 1840's; French Gothic; two story frame.

GRIMES HOUSE - 1603 10th Street; 1900; 2½ story frame.

McGEE HOUSE - 1604 10th Street; 1920; 2 story frame.

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7. Description

McALPINE-FELLOWS HOUSE - 621 Queen City Avenue; 1840's; French Gothic; 1 story frame.

GUILD-VERNER HOUSE - 1901 University Blvd.; 1822; Greek Revival; 2 story masonry.

OWEN MERDITH HOUSE - 1818 University Blvd.; (behind office building); 1850; 2 story masonry carriage house.

GOVERNOR'S MANSION - 421 Queen City Avenue; 1834; Greek Revival; 2 story masonry; HABS

OWEN-FREE HOUSE - 1817 3rd Street; 1820's; Georgian; 1½ story frame.

ORMAND-LITTLE HOUSE - 325 Queen City Avenue; 1836; Georgian; 2 story masonry. HABS



# SIGNIFICANCE

## PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian | ☐ 16th Century | ☐ 18th Century | ☐ 20th Century  
☐ 15th Century | ☐ 17th Century | ☒ 19th Century

## SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |   |   |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education    | <input type="checkbox"/> Political      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering  | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry     | <input type="checkbox"/> losophy        | <u>Local &amp; State</u>                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention    | <input type="checkbox"/> Science        | <u>History</u>                                      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape    | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture      | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-  | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature   | <input type="checkbox"/> itarian        | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military     | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater        | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music        | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____   |

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The area designated as the Druid City Historic District contains the largest concentration of historic and architecturally significant strucutres in the city of Tuscaloosa.

At one time one of the most exclusive residential areas in the city, this district reflects much of the town's social and architectural history and contains excellent examples of architectural styles which date from 1820 to 1920, as well as the homes of men prominent in city, state and national affairs. There are 47 structures and 1 monument included in the district, six of which are listed in the Historic American Buildings Survey.

Structures within the district include the homes of three Alabama governors: Arthur Bagby (1837-1841), Henry Collier (1849-1853) and W. W. Brandon (1923-1927). In 1849 Miss Dorothea Dix came to Tuscaloosa to persuade the Alabama legislature to establish a hospital for the mentally ill and was the guest in the home of then Chief Justice Henry Collier.

The Caples House, built by Marmaduke Williams, a member of the Territorial legislature and W. W. Bibb's opponent for the first governorship of Alabama, was also the home of Colonel James T. Murfee, commandant of the University of Alabama during the Civil War and later president of Howard College.

Dr. W. S. Wyman, three times president of the University of Alabama made his home within the district as did another University president, Burwell Boykin Lewis, who also served twice as a U. S. Congressman.

In the later 19th century, Associated Charities, the first organized charity group in Tuscaloosa, was formed in a home located in the district, as was Stillman College, a Presbyterian College for Negroes founded in 1876. Efforts to preserve the district were sparked when big business attempted to move into the area. The Tuscaloosa Historic Preservation Society has thus far been successful in its attempts to preserve the area, and at present three of the structures are undergoing restoration.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Hammond, Ralph. Ante-Bellum Mansions of Alabama. New York: Bonanza Books, 1951.

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LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES								
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
	°	'	"		°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NW	33°	12'	51"	87°	33'	48"							
NE	33°	12'	50"	87°	33'	29"							
SE	33°	12'	06"	87°	33'	28"							
SW	33°	12'	06"	87°	33'	47"							

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

A circular stamp with a clock face around the perimeter. The numbers 1 through 12 are visible. The word "RECEIVED" is written in a large, bold, sans-serif font across the top. Below it, the date "JUN 24 1974" is stamped. At the bottom, the words "NATIONAL REGISTER" are stamped. A small arrow points to the number 12.

OT

## NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

June 14, 1974

*George J. Emery*  
Keeper of The National Register  
*Feb 20, 1975*

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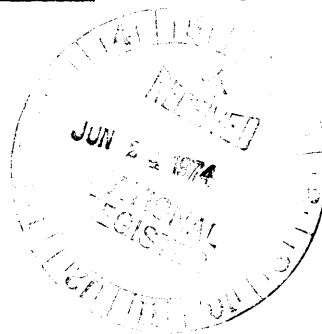
(Number all entries)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Historic Homes of Alabama and Their Traditions. Edited by Alabama Members, National League of American Pen Women, Birmingham Branch. Birmingham, Alabama: Birmingham Publishing Company, 1935.

Sellers, James B. History of the University of Alabama. University: University of Alabama Press, 1953.

Summersell, Charles Grayson. Alabama History. Birmingham, Alabama: Colonial Press, 1961.



JAN 22 1975

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

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## 7. Description

JAMES HOUSE - 907 17th Avenue; 1836; two story frame.

ASHLEY HOUSE - 922 20th Avenue; c. 1905; "Queen Anne"; 2 story frame.

EDWARDS HOUSE - 904 20th Avenue; 1910; "Queen Anne"; 2½ story frame.

COLLIER-OVERBY-BOONE HOUSE - 901 21st Avenue; 1820's; Greek Revival;  
2 story frame. HABS

TALBERT HOUSE - 811 21st Avenue; 1880's; late Victorian; 1 story frame cottage.

EDWARDS HOUSE - 2012, 2014, 2016, 9th Street (one house); c. 1915; "Queen Anne"; 2½ story frame.

THOMPSON HOUSE - 820 20th Street; c. 1915; 2½ story frame.

THOMPSON HOUSE - 810 20th Street; c. 1915; Neo-Classical Revival; 1 story frame.

WASHINGTON MOODY H. (JANUS PLACE) - 1925 8th Street; 1822; Greek Revival;  
2 story brick and frame. HABS

LAWSON HOUSE - 1901 8th Street; 1905; "Queen Anne"; 2 story frame

BURNUM HOUSE - 820 Queen City Avenue; c. 1910; Neo-Classical Revival; 1 story frame.

WILLIAMS-CAPLES HOUSE - 815 17th Avenue; 1838; Greek Revival; 2½ story frame.

NICHOLS-DEAL HOUSE - 1902 8th Street; 1866; Victorian; 1½ story frame.

RAY HOUSE - 1919 7th Street; c. 1910; "Queen Anne"; 2 story frame.

RAY HOUSE - 1923 7th Street; c. 1870's; Victorian; 1 story frame.

REDEL HOUSE - 1927 7th Street; 1904; 1 story frame.

WILBURN HOUSE - 1924 7th Street; 1870's; late Victorian; 1 story frame.

WILBURN HOUSE - 1914 7th Street; 1910; 2 story frame.

JEMISON-WILBURN - 1904 7th Street; 1870's; Victorian Gothic; 2 story frame.

Intersection of Queen City Avenue & 20th Avenue - monument

LITTLE HOUSE - 709 Queen City Avenue; 1840; Georgian; 2 story frame.

FOSTER HOUSE - 625 Queen City Avenue; 1907; "Queen Anne"; 2½ story frame



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7. Description (addendum)

The Druid City Historic District is made distinct by its park-like density of oak trees, the sharp contrast of the bordering commercial districts, the landscaped parkways which divide many of the streets west of 18th Avenue, and the ratio of large imposing older structures to smaller buildings constructed in more recent years.

Structures within the district are not crowded but are relatively dense with few expanses of land. Most of the structures have compact, small lawns, many of which are terraced above the sidewalk. All structures, old and new, are approximately the same distance from the street, but this uniformity is broken by the varied architectural lines of the structures.

Of the entire district area, about one third is commercially developed including adapted residential structures as well as new commercial construction.

Outstanding buildings in the district include: The 1840's Collier-Overby House, a Greek Revival influenced structure with six square columns, a plastered facade with a handsomely detailed entrance, a small balcony with an identical entrance, and a heavy entablature; the 1834 University Club, attributed to architect William Nichols, a two story Greek Revival structure with an Ionic portico and elliptical fanlights over the entrances; the 1835 Swaim Home, a two story Greek Revival structure with Ionic columns on three sides, which has also been attributed to William Nichols; the 1827 Commings House, which contains the finest antebellum interior detailing in the city; and the Gothic styled Jemison-Brandon House built in 1845.

8. Significance (addendum)

The City of Tuscaloosa, incorporated in 1819, was more westerly located than it is today with the University of Alabama located about a mile east of the city limits. Queen City Avenue (18th) which runs through the center of the district served as the east margin of the city and it was in this area on the outskirts of town that the first large and elaborate homes were built.

From 1826 to 1846 Tuscaloosa was the state capital. This along with the proximity of the University of Alabama made the city a political, social and cultural center for the state, and many of the large homes in the district date from this era.

During the period after the Civil War, few homes were built until around 1900 when the area began to develop again. Large homes in the Victorian styles were constructed and the area continued to be both

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8. Significance (continued)

spacious and exclusive. It was not until the 1920's that the large lawns and other open spaces were subdivided and new construction boomed. Today encroachment into the area by commercial sections is threatening the character of the area.

Other (addendum)

The boundaries along the eastern side of 18th Avenue (toward the northern end) were drawn to include several worthy buildings and to omit sections which have a larger concentration of commercial encroachment.

